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Fifty-fifth session
Item 8 of the provisional agenda

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES, INCLUDING PALESTINE

Written statement submitted by the International Federation of Human Rights, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[11 January 1999]

GE.99-10508 (E)

Introduction

1. The International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH) and its member organization, the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR), hereby wish to point out the human rights violations committed by Israel towards the Palestinian population.

I. PALESTINIAN PRISONERS

A. Recent estimates of detained Palestinians

2. Figures vary as to how many Palestinian political prisoners are being held in Israeli prisons, because of the barriers put up by Israel prohibiting Palestinian lawyers from gaining access to Palestinian detainees. The most recent figures submitted to the Israeli Government according to the newspaper *Ha'aretz* state that there are 1,622 Palestinian security prisoners, while the Palestinian Authorities Prisoner Committee asserts that there are currently 2,400 political prisoners. The FIDH and the PCHR put the number slightly higher. Even the Israeli Defence Forces admit that another 78 Palestinians are being held in administrative detention.

3. Palestinian prisoners are regularly subjected to torture. In fact, Israel is the only country in the world to have gone so far as to legalize torture through the perverse construction of such concepts as "moderate physical pressure". The United Nations Committee against Torture stated at its eighteenth session that interrogation practices used systematically by the General Security Services, such as shackling in painful positions, sleep deprivation, hooding, playing raucous music and violent shaking of detainees, constitute torture. Despite this determination, these practices continue in Israeli prisons. For example, on 27 May 1998, a report was received by PCHR from the Public Committee against Torture in Israel, regarding the treatment of Ali Balut, a resident of Bnei Naiím village, near Hebron, who was arrested on 26 March 1998 and detained at Shikma Detention Centre, Ashkelon. In a sworn affidavit to his attorney, Mr. Balut stated that, "from 19 May until 25 May I was held in 'shabeh'. I was forced to sit on a chair, wrists handcuffed behind me, a sack on my head and my legs bound. My chair was pushed so far up against the wall that my knees scraped the wall. Loud music played all the time and I was not allowed to sleep".

B. Health of prisoners

4. The deterioration in the health situation in Israeli prisons and the lack of basic medical services have resulted in the deaths of detainees. Yusef Diab El-Areer from Gaza City died on 21 June 1998 following a heart operation. There is strong reason to believe that he died due to negligence in El-Ramleh prison hospital. Jamal Hassan Al-Khameesi from El-Maghazi camp in the Gaza Strip died on 26 July 1998. Ahmed Fayez Asfour from Khan Younis died in Sarrukah Hospital in Israel on 4 October 1998. Finally, Yasser El-Muazzen from Al-Yarmouk refugee camp in the Syrian Arab Republic is in dire need of a kidney transplant. Israeli authorities have refused to permit this procedure despite the fact that fellow prisoners and members of his family are willing to be donors. Further delay could result in Mr. El-Muazzen's death.

C. Freedom for political prisoners

5. The continuing incarceration of Palestinian political prisoners has exacerbated the already tense political situation. On 5 December 1998, Palestinian and Arab prisoners in Israeli prisons (numbering nearly 3,000) began a hunger strike as a result of Israel's refusal to release them as called for by various agreements signed between the parties, most recently the Wye River Memorandum.

6. The FIDH and the PCHR believe that the release of Palestinian and Arab prisoners should be one of the main outcomes of the current peace process. The ongoing incarceration of these prisoners can only mean that Israel intends to hold them as hostages to be used to extract further concessions at the bargaining table.

II. ILLEGAL ISRAELI SETTLEMENT OF THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

7. There are over 350,000 settlers occupying East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza Strip. These settlers live in 144 settlements. Nineteen settlements holding approximately 5,000 settlers are located in the Gaza Strip.

8. More settlements, such as "Har Homa", at Jabal Abu Ghneim, are likely to be created until the upcoming Israeli elections. The Commission should be fully aware of the explosiveness of the situation regarding "Har Homa" in the weeks ahead. Palestinians in the southern portion of the West Bank are particularly concerned that construction at Jabal Abu Ghneim will put even greater limits on their ability to travel to Jerusalem. Entrepreneurs worry that this illegal settlement will cause significant damage to their businesses by siphoning off potential tourists.

A. Specific cases of rights violations by Israeli settlers

9. On 12 December 1998, the PCHR issued a press release stating that the Israeli Occupation Forces had stepped up their settlement activities in the Gaza Strip. Wide-scale bulldozing can be witnessed in various areas of the Gaza Strip, especially close to the settlements in the agricultural areas of Khan Younis, Rafah City, and Tel Zorub. It is clear that Israeli settlement activity has taken on a new life, particularly after the signing of the Wye River Memorandum on 23 October 1998.

10. Five years have passed since the start of the peace process and yet Israel still controls approximately 40 per cent of the land in the Gaza Strip and approximately 90 per cent of the land in the West Bank. Land continues to be stolen from Palestinian landowners. Some of the more egregious land grabs in the Gaza Strip (urged on recently in the West Bank by Israeli Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon) involve 350 dunams of land being bulldozed in Tel Gnan, Israeli bulldozing affecting 150 dunams of land beside the north part of the Beit Sadaih settlement, bulldozing on the road between the Gush Katif settlement and the Budaloh settlement affecting 30 dunams of land, and the bulldozing of 5 dunams of land planted with trees bearing unpicked fruit in

the Tel Zorub area. Furthermore, the organized theft of Palestinian natural resources by Israel continues in the form of Israeli vehicles from Budaloh and Beni Adsunah settlements transferring sand from the Gaza Strip to Israel.

11. In 1998, the PCHR documented seven cases in which Israeli settlers killed Palestinian civilians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Four Palestinians were shot and killed, two were killed by reckless drivers, and one was killed by a knife. Numerous other incidents resulted in serious injuries to Palestinian civilians.

III. EXCESSIVE USE OF FORCE

12. Israeli soldiers and settlers continued to use excessive force against Palestinians in 1998. The most severe instances occurred in May at the marking of the fiftieth anniversary of *Al-Nakbeh* (the Catastrophe) and in December at the time of the eleventh anniversary of the intifada.

13. In the final days of December 1998 seven people in the Gaza Strip were killed (including an Egyptian citizen and a girl who died after being shot in the head 10 years ago). Fourteen citizens from the West Bank were killed. Hundreds more were injured, including 300 in the May confrontations and another 500 in December.

14. The PCHR reported on 19 May that Israeli forces were employing snipers to kill Palestinian demonstrators. Israeli occupation forces clearly intended to kill as evidenced by the fact that 52 out of 71 Palestinians injured in Gaza in the *Al-Nakbeh* demonstrations were shot in the upper body.

IV. CLOSURE

15. The illegal Israeli policy of closure contradicts international humanitarian law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and article 12 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. This Israeli policy also contradicts the interim agreement between the PLO and Israel, which recognizes the territorial integrity of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and guarantees the establishment of safe passages between the two areas. Accordingly, the economic and social rights of the Palestinian people have been gravely breached by the Israeli policy of closure. The closure affects all sectors of citizens, especially the most vulnerable groups such as the thousands of families who depend solely on income generated by relatives working in Israel.

16. Closure affects Palestinian civilians in a variety of ways beyond limiting the ability of people to travel to work. Approximately 1,200 students from the Gaza Strip are unable to reach educational institutions in the West Bank, patients are hindered in travelling outside the Gaza Strip for medical treatment (PCHR documented nine cases between July and October in which applications for outside treatment were completely rejected), and exporters are caused serious financial harm by the delays in getting perishable (and other) goods to market.

V. CONCLUSION

17. Many of the violations mentioned above have been occurring for more than 30 years. The FIDH and its affiliated organization, the PCHR, call on the Commission to condemn these Israeli human rights violations in the strongest possible terms and to take action to protect the Palestinian people from the violation of their rights.

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Fifty-fifth session
Item 9 of the provisional agenda

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD

Written statement submitted by the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement, which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council Resolution 1996/31.

[27 December 1998]

GE.99-10563 (EXT)

Situation of human rights in Congo-Brazzaville

1. The International Federation of Human Rights Leagues (IFHR) and its member organization, Observatoire congolais des droits de l'homme (OCDH), continue to exceedingly alarmed by the persistence and worsening of a situation of grave, massive and systematic human rights violations in Congo-Brazzaville.

2. Congo-Brazzaville has still not emerged from the wave of violence marked for many years by flagrant disdain for human rights in what is a virtual police state and the climate of insecurity created by the fact that military weapons are in the possession of armed groups (militiamen) with ties to the main political parties. Although the 1997 civil war ended with the military victory of the Democratic Patriotic Forces (FDP) of General Denis Sassou-Nguesso, who has been restored to power, summary executions, politically motivated arbitrary arrests and detentions, insecurity, muzzling of the press and political parties not affiliated to the FDP through acts of intimidation and harassment of all kinds daily belie the reassuring discourse of the Congolese governmental and parliamentary authorities on the improved human rights situation and their commitment to respect their pertinent obligations.

3. The numerous human rights violations have become flagrant and systematic against victims all of whom are alleged to be supporters of the toppled authorities. In fact, for several months, both in Brazzaville and Pointe Noire, unwarranted searches and arrests, mostly in the form of kidnappings often followed by detention in clandestine and improvised prisons of real or alleged followers of the overthrown authorities in exile and of their former collaborators or relatives, are carried out by FDP officers, with total disregard for the law or the judicial system.

4. Also susceptible to this wave of repression, human rights militants conduct their activities under permanent threat of arrest. So it is that in November 1998 the Secretary-General of Observateur congolais des droits de l'homme, an affiliate of the IFHR, was arbitrarily arrested ad tortured in Pointe Noire after his organization had published a devasating report on the human rights situation in Congo.

5. This endorsement of injustice and arbitrary conduct exacerbated by impunity, owing to the ineffectiveness of the judicial system in the service of the Government, has already provoked outbursts of violence in Congo, notably in the Bouenza region in April 1998, the Pool region since August 1998 and in Brazzaville in December 1998. At the time of the latest confrontations, many extrajudicial executions, lootings and rapes were perpetrated by the followers of each of the protagonists in the conflict. Moreover, blanket disinformation concerning the real stakes is now the order of the day. Also, the civilian population, more particularly the country's youth, has been supplied with weapons which they no longer hesitate to use.

6. These explosions of violence pit the forces of law and order supported by former Cobras (the militia of General Sassou Nguesso, some of whom were recently recruited for the Congolese army) against soldiers who have remained faithful to the overthrown authorities and their own militias. These, following their military defeat in October 1997, retreated with weapons and stores to their

leaders' respective fiefs where they often came into conflict with the forces of law and order faithful to the current leaders.

7. During these confrontations which have become common currency, civilians are taken hostage and are the main victims of the macabre situation. These numerous and systematic human rights infringements are not likely to guarantee peace, stability and the general well-being of the inhabitants of Congo Brazzaville.

8. For that reason, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights cannot continue in its indifference to the particularly disturbing human rights situation in Congo-Brazzaville, increasingly marked by repeated acts of violence. In order to enable Congo-Brazzaville's current authorities specifically to integrate human rights into their political practices and remind them of the Congolese State's international obligations to enforce and protect human rights, as well as to require all Congolese protagonists to adopt the course of non-violence and negotiated settlement of their disputes, the IFHR and its member organization, Observatoire congolais des droits de l'homme, request the Commission on Human Rights to create a mechanism to monitor the situation in Congo-Brazzaville.

9. By dissuasive action against the authors of human rights violations (both governmental and those of the armed opposition), this mechanism could encourage both sides to work towards establishing genuine law and order and improving the overall situation of fundamental freedoms in the region. As the situation in Central Africa now stands, the IFHR fears that hostilities in Congo-Brazzaville may resume with renewed vigour and spread to neighbouring countries, which also find themselves in a difficult and alarming situation.

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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD

Written statement submitted by the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement, which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council Resolution 1996/31.

[11 January 1999]

GE.99-10575 (EXT)

1. The International Federation of Human Rights Leagues (IFHR) and its member organization, Ligue Tchadienne des droits de l'homme (LTDH), continue to be exceedingly alarmed by the persistence and worsening of a situation of grave, massive and systematic human rights violations in Chad.

Context and background

2. Despite the repeated reprieves granted to the Chadian authorities to enable them to continue the democratic process and call a halt to the numerous human rights violations, it must be admitted that the overall situation of fundamental freedoms in Chad is still quite alarming and that there is every indication that the grave human rights violations are sanctioned by the Government.

3. Ever since the politically-motivated assassination in 1992 of the former vice-president of the LTDH, Joseph Behidi, there has been continual restriction of areas of freedom, made tougher by, inter alia, the arrest of a number of politicians (Mr. Salet Kebzabo, Mr. Kassire Koumakoye and Mr. Yaya Batit). The three-year prison sentence passed on Mr. Yorongar Ngarleju, deputy for the oil-producing Bebedja region and the latest politician to be arrested ? in June 1998 ? for slander, was recently upheld by the Court of Appeal in N'Djaména on 24 December 1998.

4. The peace agreement signed in April 1997, on the initiative of the human rights defence organizations, by the Government and the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic (FARF) was of short duration. On 30 October 1997 when, under the peace agreement, the FARF members were expecting to be incorporated into the Chadian National Army, the latter attacked FARF headquarters in Moundou. The attack lasted one hour, but sporadic incidents continued until 8 November 1997. The investigation mission conducted by a group of Chadian human rights defence associations revealed that a total of 98 persons were killed and 15 wounded during these incidents.

5. During the first half of 1998, 301 persons were massacred in the two Logones under cover of confrontations between the security forces and the FARF. The security forces were responsible for 285 casualties. During a further peace negotiation concluded on 6 May 1998, the FARF rebel leader, Laokein Barde, disappeared in the most obscure circumstances. Private press sources, which corroborate one another and have not been refuted by the Government, claim that the federalist rebel leader was assassinated by a commando set up by the Republic's highest authorities.

6. The essential features of the general situation in Chad are chronic impunity, growing insecurity and an entrenched policy of exclusion of one category of citizens from management of public affairs, thereby exacerbating inter-ethnic tensions throughout the national territory.

7. The long-awaited genuine national reconciliation is at a virtual standstill. Rather than endeavour to reach a global settlement of the Chadian crisis, the Government prefers to play it one by one and negotiate separate peace agreements with the armed opposition. The overall result of this mind-set is that a new rebellion surfaces with each new peace agreement. There is blatant discrimination in access to vocational schools or establishments of higher

learning, such as the faculty of medicine, where the merit criterion counts for nothing.

8. Journalists and human rights defenders are the particular targets of the power circles and the so-called security forces which intimidate them with threats of every kind.

Attacks on civil liberties and political freedom

9. Freedom of assembly and freedom of association continue to be flouted in Chad with the banning and systematic repression, backed up with Kalachnikovs, of all peaceful public demonstrations or protests. A number of human rights defence associations were suspended by the Minister of the Interior in late March 1998 as they were preparing to organize ?city shutdown? days in N'Djaména in protest against the massacres in the south of the country. Their leaders were hunted down, harassed and threatened with death. Such was the case of Dobian Assinbar, current president of the LTDH, who escaped an attempt on his life in Moundou in October 1997; his home was attacked by soldiers on 22 March 1998 and both he and his wife were injured. Dobian was transferred on 27 March 1998 on the orders of the State authorities. Human rights defence NGOs are perceived by the authorities as mere "foils" to Chadian democracy.

10. Journalists such as Sosthène Ngargoune and Dieudonné Djonabaye were manhandled and beaten up in 1997 and 1998 respectively in the course of their work. The director of the newspaper "L'Observateur", Sy Noumbo Binga Gali, and another journalist, Togomossi Polycarpe, were arrested and convicted of slander along with deputy Yorongar Ngarlejy on 24 December 1998. Mr. Nehemie Benoudjita and Mr. Begoto Yalde Oulatar, respectively directors of the newspapers "Le Temps" and "Ndjaména Hebdo", regularly receive anonymous telephone threats. Human rights defenders are increasingly victims of all sorts of pressures, as are journalists on private newspapers, which considerably curtail their freedom: official harassment, professional marginalization of human rights defenders, repeated judicial proceedings, grave threats to, and assaults on, their physical and mental integrity, telephone tapping and tax pressures on the private press.

11. The right to equal justice does not exist in Chad. The judicial apparatus is a veritable instrument of repression in the service of the Executive Branch. Any opinion contrary to that held by the powers-that-be is forcefully repressed. For instance, deputy Yorongar Ngarlejy was charged with slander, in contravention of any legal procedure, tried and sentenced to three years' imprisonment, while the law stipulates a maximum sentence of two years in such cases. Accordingly, those to be tried are wary of decisions handed down by Chadian justice. Lastly, and most importantly, to speak of the independence of justice is a total sham when the Executive Branch does not hesitate to take certain cases away from the courts. Anyone close to the authorities who seriously breaks the law is simply transferred or promoted to a higher post.

Violations of the right to life and physical integrity

12. The Chadian population lives in a climate of fear and anguish caused by the brutality of the forces of law and order and the rebels. Unlawful arrests and summary and extrajudicial executions are frequent. The years 1997 and 1998 are alleged to have been particularly marked by massacres in the two Logones (in

the south of the country in the oil-producing region) committed with total impunity. The phenomenon of "road blocks" is growing worse with a daily cost in human lives.

13. While the Chadian authorities officially declare that executions of thieves are a thing of the past, Adoum Achidere, a married man born some time in the 1970s, and Nafe Chamo, born in 1966 and married with three children, both residents of the Hayal Matar district, were the victims of extrajudicial executions in November 1998 in Abéché, in violation of the laws of the Republic. Mr. Allahissem Adoumngar, aged 30, was summarily shot dead by gendarmes at his home on 10 November 1998. No proceedings have been instituted against the perpetrator and his accomplices. On 30 October 1997, Dr. Danyo Merci was bound hand and foot by soldiers in Moundou, placed in a plastic bag and thrown into the river in full spate. By some miracle, he was able to escape and embark on the road to exile. This list of cases is by no means exhaustive.

14. Chad's economic situation is also alarming. Its annual per capita income is one of the world's lowest. Health indicators are abysmal: problems of malnutrition, lack of access to clean drinking water and a dearth of health infrastructure pose serious problems. Conditions of access to education remain highly discriminatory. The economic situation is marked by the extreme poverty of the inhabitants whom the Government beguiles on a daily basis with the promise that only exploitation of the country's petroleum resources can save them from their present poverty, while endeavouring to conceal the disastrous manner in which the Chadian State has managed its finances for years.

Conclusion

15. The two years in which fundamental rights and freedoms reached a level of degradation unparalleled in Chad's journey to democracy were 1997 and 1998. With mass forced exile of political leaders and the intellectual elite, imprisonments, arbitrary suspension of human rights defence associations and the hounding and harassment of journalists, unwarranted recourse to the judicial apparatus by the Executive Branch for settling political scores, etc., human rights violations in Chad are grave, flagrant and systematic and can, on more than one count, be laid at the door of the Chadian authorities, who have taken no specific or effective steps to bring them to an end. The IFHR and its affiliate, the LTDH, consider it essential for the international community to react with a view to putting a stop to these flagrant and massive violations of human rights. They call upon the Commission to appoint a Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Chad with instructions to report to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session.

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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD

Written statement submitted by the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement, which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council Resolution 1996/31.

[11 January 1999]

GE.99-10583 (EXT)

Situation of human rights in Tunisia

1. The International Federation of Human Rights Leagues (IFHR) and its member organization, Ligue tunisienne de défense des droits de l'homme (LTDH), once more express their concern at the persistence of grave and systematic human rights violations in Tunisia. The Tunisian Government's determination to appropriate the discourse on human rights and its attempts to portray the State as an ostensibly pluralist democracy that respects freedoms have, in practice, gone hand in hand with the proliferation of grave violations of fundamental rights and freedoms and a hardening of the laws, in defiance of international norms. Human rights defenders are the prime victims of such human rights violations.

2. The Tunisian Government uses sophisticated methods for harassing and intimidating human rights defenders and a mechanism of external communication and diplomatic intervention with considerable resources at its disposal for endeavouring to improve its image, notably within the organs of the United Nations. Tunisia's policy in that domain is now universally denounced by the main international human rights organizations. On the pretext of combating Islamic fundamentalism, the Tunisian authorities have in fact transgressed every rule of law and closed off all areas of freedom. Hence, the IFHR and the LTDH exhort the Commission to react strongly and place the human rights situation in Tunisia on its agenda.

3. This appeal is all the more justified since, four years after the critical conclusions and urgent recommendations of the United Nations Human Rights Committee (18 and 19 October 1994) concerning the conditions of the Tunisian Government's implementation of the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the conclusions which the Commission against Torture (CAT) communicated to the Tunisian authorities on 18 November 1998, following examination of Tunisia's second periodic report, were particularly forceful. In them the Committee expressed its concern at the now widespread practice of torture in Tunisia which sometimes results in the death of detainees. Those conclusions and recommendations of the Committee against Torture seriously belie the discourse of self-satisfaction and dissimulation of the actual repression systematically practised by Tunisian diplomacy. While virulently attacking the international non-governmental organizations, accusing them of every kind of evil, while marginalizing and stifling local associations, especially the LTDH, and at the same time sanctioning the diatribes of false NGOs unconditionally supportive of its politics, the Tunisian Government has still not managed to disguise the facts, of which systematic violations of fundamental civil and political rights are hallmarks.

4. Tunisia is thus split into two contradictory images: the one - real but greatly enhanced for propaganda purposes - of a stable country with social achievements (especially with regard to legislation on women's rights), which it is in its interest to preserve and implant in judicial practice, and the other - the image of a Tunisia of flouted freedoms and muzzled human rights defenders. An implacable and pernicious system of tight political and police control and harassment based on partisan surveillance, intimidation and informing has resulted in the population's internalization of fear. In order to silence human rights defenders, the authorities have deployed an entire arsenal of repression to hush any discordant voice: unfair trials, beatings, systematic practice of

torture, the deliberately humiliating conditions of detention in which nearly two thousand political prisoners are kept, arbitrary arrests, repeated interrogations, harassment of relatives, including children, professional victimization, tapping of telephones, confiscation of passports, threats, attacks on property (cars, offices, homes, etc.), hate campaigns in the press in the form of slanderous, insulting and degrading articles and withdrawal of nationality. Added to all this are the monochrome, muzzled press and the many acts of juridical and legislative window-dressing which, like the recent law on passports and the post-office code, confer a semblance of "legality" on the most arbitrary acts and divest citizenship of some of its essential attributes.

5. It is in this context that the IFHR and the LTDH would like to call attention to the situation of Mr. Khémais Ksila, Vice-President of the LTDH, imprisoned since 29 September 1997. He is serving a three-year prison term to which he was sentenced for "slander against public order, dissemination of false information likely to disturb public order and incitement to citizens to transgress the laws of the land". All the Tunisian and foreign observers who attended his trial are agreed on the iniquity of the sentence delivered on the basis of a crime of opinion based solely on the Mr. Khémais Ksila's having publicly announced a hunger strike to protest against the harassment to which he and his relatives were subjected because of his involvement with the League.

6. Since that time, not only has the Tunisian Government turned a deaf ear to all protests and demands for Mr. Khémais Ksila's release, it even keeps him in intolerable detention conditions, while his wife and children have been intimidated on a daily basis. Many approaches have been made to the working group on arbitrary arrest of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, through a resolution of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, for them to make inquiries about the safety of a number of human rights defenders, including Khémais Ksila, and to inform the Sub-Commission at its fifty-first session of the outcome. Unfortunatly, the Tunisian Government has not responded to these approaches and appeals.

7. The IFHR and the LTDH request the Commission on Human Rights to call upon Tunisia to:

a) implement the CAT's recommendations;

b) guarantee human rights defenders the necessary freedom of action, pursuant to the Declaration on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, adopted by the General Assembly on 9 December 1998, and, in particular, to release Mr. Ksila immediately.